

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-22 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 21 and 22 are amended. Claim 7 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added.

I. Personal Interview/Telephone Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the personal interview conducted on February 18, 2004. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Additionally, as discussed during the telephone communication on March 1, 2004, the allowance of claims 19 and 20 was incorrect due to their dependency on rejected claim 1. However, as claim 1 is amended to recite patentable subject matter, Applicant asserts that claims 19 and 20 are now in condition for allowance.

II. Allowed Claims

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 11-20 (please note the discussion of claims 19 and 20, above). Applicant submits that claims 1-6, 8-10, 21 and 22 are also in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed below.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-10, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,145,456 to Codos. As claim 7 is canceled the rejection of that claim is moot. Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-6, 8-10, 21 and 22.

As discussed and agreed during the personal interview, Codos does not disclose each and every feature recited in the amended claims. For example, Codos does not disclose a sewing apparatus where sewing is performed by causing a thread to remain in a workpiece, comprising *inter alia* a holding member that presses at least a part of the thread connecting two consecutive stitch points to the workpiece in accordance with a relative movement

between the needle and the workpiece, wherein the holding member holds at least a part of the thread between one stitch point and a succeeding point, and the part of the thread being held is less than the entire amount of thread between stitch points.

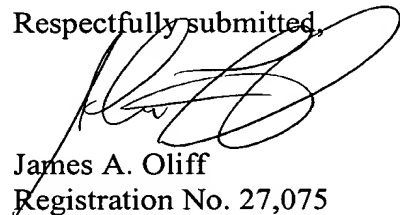
As the claims are amended as agreed during the personal interview to distinguish over the applied art of record, claims 1-6, 8-10, 21 and 22 are not anticipated by Codos.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6 and 8-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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